Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A redundant system having two switch routes, comprising:

N, with N greater than or equal to one, input selectors, each for receiving an input line and for connecting the received input line to ~~N input lines, wherein each N input selector selects~~ one of the two switch routes ~~to connect N input lines to selected one of two switch routes, depending on~~ based on a system switching signal;

~~wherein two switch sections are provided, one~~ a switch section for each one of the two switch routes, each of the ~~two~~ switch sections having N input ports and N output ports, and ~~comprising~~ N buffers that each further include[[,]]

~~wherein each of the N buffers comprises~~ M, with M greater than or equal to two, priority queues for storing packets having different priorities ~~input packets, received from N input selectors, classified under M priorities, and M priority output queues corresponding to the M priorities~~;

an output selector for selecting [[a]] one of the ~~two~~ M priority queues ~~in a~~ from one of the N buffers of one of the two switch sections ~~for each of the M priorities to store an output of the selected one of two M priority queues in a one of two switch sections into a corresponding one of the M priority queues~~; and

a controller configured to receive status signals from both of the switch sections that include information relating to a packet storing status of the M priority queues and, based on the status signals, control the ~~for instructing the~~ output selector to select [[a]] the one of the ~~two~~ M priority queues, the controller additionally generating the system switching signal ~~for each of the M priorities corresponding to respective ones of the two switch sections depending on the system switching signal and a packet storing status of each of the M priority queues~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The redundant system according to claim 1, wherein when [[a]] one of the two switch routes is switched to an other switch route ~~by the system switching signal~~, the controller monitors a packet storing status of each of the M priority queues and, [[if]] when [[a]] one of the ~~two~~ M priority queues corresponding to respective ones of the ~~two~~ switch sections becomes empty, then the controller instructs the output selector to select ~~the other of the two~~ another one of the M priority queues to store an output of the selected one of ~~two~~ M priority queues in [[a]] one of ~~two~~ the switch sections into a corresponding one of the M priority output queues.

3. (Original) The redundant system according to claim 2, wherein each of the switch sections further comprises:

a readout controller controlling a packet reading sequence of the M priority queues for each of the N buffers such that priority in packet reading is given to a higher priority queue.

4. (Currently Amended) The redundant system according to claim 2, wherein the controller instructs the output selector to sequentially select the ~~other of the two~~ M priority queues ~~for each of the M priorities~~ in descending order of priority.

5. (Currently Amended) A packet switching system having two switch routes, comprising:

N, with N greater than or equal to one, input selectors, each of which selects [[a]] one of the two switch routes to connect N input lines to the selected ~~one depending~~ switch route based on a system switching signal;

~~two~~ a switch ~~sections, one~~ section provided for each of the two switch routes, each of the ~~two~~ switch sections having N input ports and N output ports and comprising N buffers, each of ~~which comprises:~~ the N buffers further including

a high-priority queue for storing input packets having a high priority~~, received from N input selectors~~; and

a low-priority queue for storing input packets having a low priority~~, received from one of N input selectors~~;

a high-priority output selector coupled to the high-priority queues in each of the switch sections ~~for selecting a one of two high-priority queues corresponding to respective ones of the two switch sections~~;

a low-priority output selector coupled to the low-priority queues in each of the switch sections ~~for selecting a one of two low-priority queues corresponding to respective ones of the two switch sections~~;

a high-priority output queue for storing an output of the high-priority output selector ~~selected one of the two high-priority queues~~;

a low-priority output queue for storing an output of the low-priority output selector ~~selected one of the two low-priority queues~~; and

a controller configured to generate the system switching signal and receive status signals from each of the two switch sections that include information relating to a storage status of the high-priority queues and the low-priority queues, the controller controlling the high-priority output selectors and the low-priority output selectors ~~of the two switch sections~~ depending on the status signals ~~system switching signal and a packet storing status of each of the high-priority queues and the low-priority queues~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The packet switching system according to claim 5, wherein when [[a]] one of the two switch routes is switched to an other of the two switch routes ~~by the system switching signal~~, the controller monitors a packet storing status of each of the high-priority and low-priority queues and, if [[a]] one of the ~~two~~ high-priority queues corresponding to respective ones of the

two switch sections becomes empty, then the controller instructs a high-priority output selector to select ~~the~~ an other of the ~~two~~ high-priority queues to store an output of the selected high priority queue into the high-priority output queue.

7. (Currently Amended) The packet switching system according to claim 6, wherein each of the switch sections further comprises:

a readout controller controlling a packet reading sequence of the high-priority and low-priority queues for each of the N buffers such that priority in ~~packet~~ data unit reading is given to the high-priority queue.

8. (Currently Amended) The packet switching system according to claim 7, wherein the readout controller starts reading out the low-priority ~~packets~~ data units stored in the low-priority queue after all of the high-priority ~~packets~~ data units stored in the high-priority queue have been completely read out.

9. (Currently Amended) The packet switching system according claim 7, wherein the readout controller controls a ~~packet~~ data unit reading sequence of the high-priority and low-priority queues for each of the N buffers such that m high-priority packets are read out from the high-priority queue and n low-priority packets are read out from the low-priority queue, wherein m is set to be greater than n.

Claims 10 – 14. (canceled)

15. (New) A switching system comprising:

a plurality of input selector switches each configured to be connected to an input line and each receiving a system switching signal;

a first switch section and a second switch section connected to the plurality of input selector switches, one of the first switch section or the second switch section receiving packets from the plurality of input selector switches in response to the system switching signal indicating that either the first switch section or the second switch section is active, the first and second switch sections each including a buffer corresponding to each of the input selector switches, each of the buffers further including a plurality of priority queues for storing different priority packets from corresponding ones of the input selector switches;

a plurality of output selectors each connected to one of the buffers from the first and second switch sections; and

a controller configured to generate the system switching signal and to receive status signals from the first switch section and the second switch section that include information relating to a state of the first switch section and the second switch section and being used by the controller to control the plurality of output selectors.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of output selectors are controlled to receive packets from one of the priority queues corresponding to the buffer to which an output selector is connected.

17. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the input selector switches are each connected to an input line via an input processor.

18. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein a number of the output selectors is equal to a number of the input selector switches.